

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated August 31, 2005. Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-47 have been rejected. Claims 1-47 remain pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-17, 19, 20-22, 24-28, 30, 32-42 and 43-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Callendrier (US 6,122,978) in view of Matsuda et al. (US Patent 2002/0020959).

Regarding claims 1, 10, 20, 32-34, 40-42, 46 and 47 Callendrier teaches an apparatus and method comprising a mounting arrangement (Column 5, lines 36-40 and Figure 2) and at least one cantilevered roller shaft (20) comprises a distal end and a proximal end for advancing a document (10), wherein the proximal end is coupled to the frame of such that the distal end floats (As shown in Figure 1) and the at least one cantilevered roller shaft is supported only at one end (Figure 1). However, he does not explicitly disclose a bearing coupled to at least one cantilevered roller shaft and a spring coupled to the frame and the bearing. Matsuda et al. teaches an apparatus and methods for feeding sheets with a cantilevered roller (3, 4) with a bearing (10) coupled to the shaft (7) and a spring coupled to a plate (element 9a can be referred to as a frame).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Callendrier to include a bearing and spring as taught by Matsuda et al., since Matsuda et al. teaches that it is advantageous to provide a stable/supported relationship as a biasing force acts upon the shaft...

Claims 4, 13, 18, 23 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Callendrier (US 6,122,978) in view of Matsuda et al. (US Patent 2002/0020959) as applied to claim 1, 10 and 20 above, and further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

Callendrier and Matsuda et al. both teach the claimed apparatus and method with the exception of a frame comprising a main portion and front portion. AAPA teaches a printer with a front portion (54) and a main portion (56, Page 2, Lines 15-16 and Figure 2). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Matsuda et al. to include a main portion and front portion of a printer as

taught by AAPA, since AAPA teaches that it is advantageous to provide a stable and a reliable feeding device.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections. The present invention provides a document feeder device. The document feeder device includes a frame and at least one cantilevered roller shaft for advancing a document, where an unsupported end of the at least one cantilevered roller shaft floats, a bearing coupled to the at least one cantilevered roller shaft, and a spring coupled to the frame and the bearing. The document feeder device eliminates the need for a rigid frame to support the unsupported end. This decreases the cost of production by eliminating the need for additional frame hardware and/or more rigid frame hardware. (Abstract.)

Callendrier does not teach or suggest these features, as discussed below.

Callendrier discloses a moving web tension monitoring apparatus of easily fabricated, relatively inexpensive and easily assembled construction including a cantilever mounted strain beam element coupled at the flexurable end thereof through a rigid coupling to one end of the support shaft for the web supporting guide roll. A twin beam type transducer having strain gauges at the flex points of the beams is coupled to the shaft supporting the moving web. The strain gauges are located and electrically connected to measure the radial forces applied to the shaft by the web, independently of the length of the shaft. (Abstract.)

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Callendrier does not disclose a bearing coupled to at least one cantilevered roller shaft and a spring coupled to the frame and the bearing. The Examiner has relied on Matsuda to cure the defects of Callendrier. However, applicants

respectfully submit that Matsuda does not disclose the “spring coupled to the frame and the bearing,” as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 20, 32, and 40.

Matsuda discloses a sheet feeding apparatus that feeds sheet media between a feed roller and a separating member pressed into contact with the feed roller, and separates and conveys sheet media held between the feed roller and the separating member one by one by utilizing differences in frictional coefficients between the feed roller, the separating member, and the sheet media. The sheet media are separated and conveyed while periodically changing the pressurizing force of the reverse roller against the feed roller. (Abstract.)

The Examiner has asserted that Matsuda teaches a spring coupled to a plate, referring to element 9a. However, referring to element 9a of Figure 1 of Matsuda, the spring 13 does not couple to the frame 9a and also does not couple to the bearing 10. Instead, the spring 13 couples to a lever 12. In contrast to Matsuda, the spring of the present invention couples “to the frame and the bearing.” Accordingly, Matsuda fails to cure the defects of Callendrier.

Therefore, Callendrier in view of Matsuda does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 20, 32, and 40, and these claims are allowable over Callendrier in view of Matsuda.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-19, 21-31, 33-39, and 41-47

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-19, 21-31, 33-39, and 41-47 depend from independent claims 1, 10, 20, 32, and 40, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to independent claim 1, 10, 20, 32, and 40 apply with equal force to claims 2-9, 11-19, 21-31, 33-

39, and 41-47, which are thus allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 10, 20, 32, and 40.

Conclusion

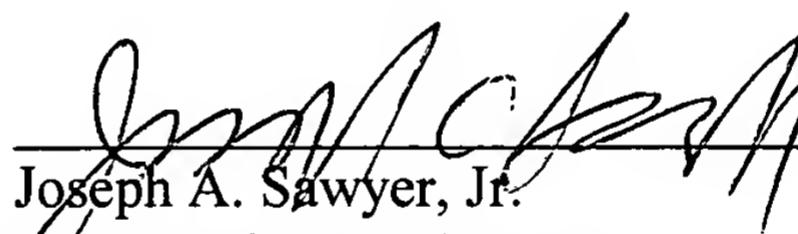
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-47 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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